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October 3, 2004

Mr. Troy Brady
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Abandonment of Minnesota Commercial Railway trackage and right-of-way owned by MT Properties and operated by the Minnesota Commercial Railway. Trackage located in the Cities of New Brighton and Arden Hills, Ramsey County, Minnesota, and is approximately 2,500 feet in length. Docket Number: AB-882

Dear Troy:

It was a pleasure talking with you last month and thank you for your recent e-mail response to the request for Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) for the proposed land transfer from MT Properties to the City of New Brighton, Minnesota. In reference to those conversations, please find enclosed the Environmental and Historical Report for the Abandonment and Discontinuance of a One-Half Mile Portion of the "Butcher Spur" located in the Cities of New Brighton and Arden Hills, Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Throughout the Report there is reference to an Alternative Urban Area-Wide Review (AUAR) called the *Northwest Quadrant Redevelopment Project*. This AUAR included the area where the spur is located. As we discussed, the AUAR is an environmental planning tool used in Minnesota to meet both the spirit and intent of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) of 1973, which was modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

In addition to the Environmental and Historical report and the AUAR, the City has completed two Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, one for the section of the spur in the City of New Brighton and one for the segment of the spur in the City of Arden Hills. These too are attached for your information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please email me at impactplanning@earthlink.net or call me at (651) 699-4415.

Best regards,

Kenneth Nimmer

cc: Mark Nagel, City of New Brighton (w/o attachments)
Vicki Rutson, STB-SEA (w/o attachments)
Larry Starns (w/o attachments)
John Heffner (w/o attachments)